

2026
MA COURSE: LITERARY THEORY

PAPER 10: UNIT II and III

Course Instructor: Simi Malhotra

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

This course intends to equip students with basic readings in cultural and literary theory. The objective being introductory, the focus of the course will be on familiarizing students with as many theoretical positions as possible, such as Marxism, Formalism, Structuralism, Deconstruction, Feminism, Psychoanalysis, and Postmodernism through prescribed readings in the course. The course is divided into an introductory and a concluding section where the introductory and concluding sessions will comprise lectures by the course instructor alone, the other sections will begin with a lecture by the course instructor on the prescribed reading for the day and will be followed by a discussion. All the students will be expected to come to class having read the relevant articles and would be expected to actively participate in class discussions. Efforts will be made to conduct the course in adherence to the schedule given below:

DATE	TOPIC OF LECTURE/PRESENTATION
Week 1	Introducing the Course: Literary Theory
Week 2	Lecture: The Theoretical Turn
Week 3	Lecture: The Theoretical Turn
Week 4	Lecture: Introduction to Feminism and Postmodernism
Week 5	Lecture and Discussion on Barrett's 'Ideology and Cultural Production of Gender'
Week 6	Lecture and Discussion on Barrett's 'Ideology and Cultural Production of Gender'
Week 7	Lecture and Discussion on Irigaray's 'When the Goods Get Together'
	Lecture and Discussion on Lyotard's 'Answering The Question: What is Postmodernism?'
Week 8	Lecture and Discussion on Lyotard's 'Answering The Question: What is Postmodernism?'
Week 9	Lecture: Introduction to Psychoanalysis and Poststructuralism
Week 10	Lecture and Discussion on Foucault's 'What is an Author?'
Week 11	Lecture and Discussion on Foucault's 'What is an Author?'
Week 12	Lecture and Discussion on Barthes's 'From Work to Text'
Week 13	Lecture and Discussion on Barthes's 'From Work to Text'
Week 14	Lecture and Discussion on Lacan's 'The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious or Reason Since Freud'
Week 15	Lecture and Discussion on Lacan's 'The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious or Reason Since Freud'
Week 16	Lecture and Discussion on Lacan's 'The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious or Reason Since Freud'
Week 17	In conclusion: The Role of Theory in Literary and Cultural Analysis

Assessment:

40 percent: Class Presentation

60 percent: End Semester Examination

Contact Details

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